



State of Connecticut

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2011

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

***RE: Proposed S.B. No. 634,
AN ACT CONCERNING FARM METHANE RESOURCES.***

Good morning Chairman Nardello, Chairman Fonfara, Ranking Members Hoydick and Witkos, and members of the Energy & Technology Committee. I am Mike Alberts, 50th District State Representative, and I am testifying today in favor of Senate Bill 634, AN ACT CONCERNING FARM METHANE RESOURCES. Thank you for raising this bill for a public hearing.

Woodstock is home to several of Connecticut's largest dairy farms. A direct by-product of our still quite significant dairy industry is cow manure; a potential by-product is farm-produced methane.

While farm-produced methane has been harvested in other states, it has never been produced in significant commercial quantity in Connecticut. This bill, if enacted, would create the opportunity for Connecticut to be a leader in the generation of safe, reliable farm methane in the eastern United States.

One of my community's dairy farmers has conducted extensive research into the potential installation of a conversion system that would create methane to benefit our largest private employer, Crabtree & Evelyn. In order for the installation to be commercially viable, however, excess power created by the system would have to be acquired by our electric distribution companies. This proposed bill would accomplish that.

Today you will hear additional testimony that will more fully address the proposed system. I thank you for your consideration of this effort and hope for your support of this legislation.